

sence was intentional, and His Excellency has no right to attribute to that letter a meaning its words would not fairly warrant. It is not fair to suppose that he attempts to read between the lines of his communications, and attribute to him any further or other meaning than that visible on the face of his communications.

It is very pertinent to ask the meeting, if the Council has been held since and no reason given for meetings not being held. His Excellency's illness is no reason. If it had been stated that Council was not held because material was being collected to be presented to the Governor, and that a little delay was advisable for that reason, no one would have been astonished; but it is extraordinary, in the absence of an assigned reason, if the public look for the Council to be held, and the Governor in answering the question of which Mr. Kyrie gave notice, and the question of which Mr. Whitehead gave notice, about the date of payment of the Military Contribution for last year.

If we have been informed on apparently good authority that the \$128,000 voted in Finance Committee on 29th February, but not finally voted until the Council Meeting of the 20th March, was in fact not voted until the 20th March, and that it was not voted until the 20th March, to February, and that the Council were permitted to go on discussing the propriety of paying a sum of money that had already gone out of the Treasury. It may be that this is not so, but the report can be easily refuted, and ought to be admitted or denied.

If Honourable Members of Council believe that they have been treated as children in this fashion and allowed to debate on matters of a trivial nature, they will wonder that they are angry. It is very important that no meeting of Council is held or that no reason is given for not holding it.

No man in the Colony I think has a higher opinion of His Excellency the Governor than I have. I recognize his great ability and immense industry. I know by personal experience his perfect honesty and straightforwardness and his perfect integrity. I have known him and know him as he is, and he has in any way gone wrong. No one more deeply sympathizes with him in his illness or regrets more sincerely his enforced departure. With one exception, he is the best man I have ever known. I would not mind being placed second to Sir Richard Graves Macdonnell. Yet I make bold to say that he has been wrong in his dealings with the unofficial members in this matter, that he has done wrong to many of his subjects, and that he is doing towards him, imputing motives, and that he has treated them in a manner not consistent with their position in the community, with their personal merit or with the position now him and them occupy in the eyes of their Sovereign.

There is between him and them a grave difference of opinion on an important matter on which they are entitled to have an opinion and to express it. They have requested him to resign, and he has refused that difference exists to their common superior, and manifestly he holds his hand so that the superior may be free to decide. He has refused to hold his hand. He has rejected their appeal and deliberation, and he has insisted that they should do an act of injustice so flagrant that he will have no act or part in it; and when they insist upon what is their plain right they are lectured - before his Auto-dump as if they were a parcel of children.

This is very plain speaking, but it is true, and most people in the Colony, without upholding the unofficial members in all things, think that His Excellency has been wrong in his treatment of the opinion although they respect him most highly, deeply sympathize with him in his illness and sufferings, and

are heartily sorry that he is leaving us. We all respect him exceedingly and hope that he will still more fully recognize the fact that he has not treated the Members of Council nicely and if he admits that they may have some grounds for their resentment, if they feel any.—Yours very faithfully,

JNO. J. FRANCIS.

A Wiser Philadelphian claims to have invented a fluid which will render cloth impervious to moisture.

A COMMISSION has been appointed in England to inquire into the effect of coal dust in precipitating or extending explosions in coal mines.

AN electrician who has made a specialty of spectacular electricity says the day is not far off when electrical fireworks will supersede those now used.

HONGKONG, April 19, 1891.	
OPICUM—New Patten, cash,...	485
" Old cash,	485
" New Benares, cash, 407 1/2	
" Old cash,	—
" New Malwa cash,	490
" Allowance, Teels,	32/45
" Old Malwa, cash,	500/40
" Allowance, Teels,	32/45
" Persian, Oily, cash, 420/70	
" Allowance, Teels,	32/45
" Persian, Paper tied 420/40	
" Allowance, Teels,	32/45

Exchange.	
HONGKONG, April 20.	
On London—	
Bank—Wire,	3/1 1/2
" Demand,	3/1 1/2
" 30 days' sight,	3/1 1/2
" 4 months' sight,	3/2 1/2
Credit, 4 "	3/2 1/2
Documentary, 4 months' sight, 3/2 1/2	
On Paris—	
On demand,	8.06
Credit, 4 months' sight,	4.05
On Berlin—	
On demand,	3.19
On New York—	
On demand,	76 1/2
Credit, 60 days' sight,	76
On Bombay—	
Wire,	221 1/2
On demand,	221 1/2
Wire,	221 1/2
On demand,	221 1/2
On Shanghai—	
On demand,	71 1/2
89 days' sight, private paper, 72 1/2	
Gold Leaf, 100 Bars	\$23.00 1/2
Sovereigns (Bank's buying rate) 0.29	

Temperature.	
(Taken at Messrs Falconer & Co.'s Premises, Queen's Road.)	
BAROMETER—9 A.M.,	30.02
Do. 1 P.M.,	29.97
Do. 4 P.M.,	29.95
THERMOMETER—9 A.M.,	71 1/2
Do. 1 P.M.,	74
Do. 4 P.M.,	73
Do. (Wat. bulb) 9 A.M. 68	
Do. Do. 1 P.M. 70	
Do. Do. 4 P.M. 70	
Do. Maximum	74
Do. Minimum over night 70	

